requirement of land for agriculture purposes, it is difficult to estimate the loss of forest area in next 10 years.

(c) Loss of forest area and reduction in forest quality does have adverse impact on ecology and wildlife

Illegal chopping of barks

1270. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE TKAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that forest mafia have chopped the barks of around 2,000 pine trees in the Deber Ghat-Garari forest belt of Renuka area for illegal tapping of resin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the mafia brutally chopped the bark of pine forest and put heavy amount of acid on the wounds of trees to get more resin out of it causing irreparable damage to the trees which would prove to be the biggest environmental hazard in the area; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to check this illegal chopping of bark of pine trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) As per the report received from State Forest Department, barks of 262 pine trees was found to be illicitly chopped in the Reserved Forests of Garari. In this regard a damage report No.32 dated 7.4.2007 was issued and Rs. 26,820.00 have been recovered from the defaulter. No damage to pine trees due to use of acid has been reported.

(d) The action taken by Government to check illegal chopping of bark of pine trees are as under:

- Regular patrolling & inspection of forest areas by the field staff and officials.
- The offenders are punished as per the provisions of existing laws/rules.
- Awareness amongst the local people, particularly the workers engaged in resin tapping to adopt right practices for resin tapping.

Rejuvenation of the River Yamuna

1271. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to rejuvenate the Yamuna River by building two mega reservoirs to trap rain water for perennial water flow;

(b) if so, the agencies which are involved therein;

(c) the estimated cost of building reservoirs, sewage treatment plants and other inputs; and

(d) by when Government are, likely to take steps to end pollution in Yamuna which has currently become a dirty drain and being misused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Ministry of Water Resources, there are proposals for construction of three storage reservoirs namely, Renuka Dam Project, Kishau Dam Project and Lakhwar Vyasi Dam Project, mainly intended for regulating the flow of water in the river Yamuna during the year by increasing the lean season flow after storing the excess water during high flow periods. In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in May, 1994 by the Chief Ministers of basin states of Delhi, UP, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. The MoU covers allocation of annual utilizable flow of river Yamuna to the basin States including Uttarakhand. The storage projects namely, Renuka Dam (Government of Himachal Pradesh through Pabbar Valley Power Corporation), Kishau Dam (Government of Uttarakhand through Tehri Hydro Power Development Corporation) and Lakhwar Vyasi Dam (Government of Uttarakhand through National Hydro-electric Power Corporation) are at various stages of investigation/preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and obtaining various clearances regarding Environment and Forest, Resettlement and Rehabilitation etc.

(c) The provisional cost of the three storage dams is presently estimated to be Rs. 12291 crore approximately. In the context of improvement of water quality in river Yamuna, the estimated cost of sewage treatment capacity envisaged to be created/augmented in Haryana, Delhi and U.P. under Yamuna Action Plan, Phase-II of Ministry of Environment and Forests is Rs. 173.03 crore. In addition, Government of NCT of Delhi has taken up large scale sewerage and sewage treatment works from its own plan funds.

(d) The quality of water in Yamuna has not shown the desired improvement, particularly in Delhi, owing to the large gap between the demand and the availability of the sewage treatment capacity and lack of availability of fresh water for ensuring minimum flow in the river. Implementation of the river pollution abatement works is an ongoing and continuous activity of the Government under which various schemes of pollution abatement are implemented by the Government based upon the estimated pollution loads. Due to ever-increasing population leading to increased pollution load and gap in the availability of financial resources to take up the works commensurate with the requirements, there is likely to be persistent divergence between the pollution load tackled and the actual pollution load. While the construction of reservoirs is mainly intended for regulating the flow of water during the year by increasing the lean season flow after storing the excess water during high flow periods, it will also help in ameliorating the water quality of river Yamuna.

Receding Gangotri glacier

1272. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's holiest river Ganga is under greater threat from warming than ever before as Himalayan source Gangotri glacier is receding by 120 feet a year and some of the glaciers could disappear by 2030;